Claims

1. (Currently amended) A reconfigurable network-equipment power-management system ~~of the type that may provide power to one or more electronic appliances~~, comprising:

a ~~power-controller~~ power-distribution apparatus having a power input disposed in the power-distribution apparatus and a ~~serial~~ communication interface disposed in the power-distribution apparatus for communicating with a remote user system;

a plurality of power-control ~~ports~~ outlets disposed in the power-distribution apparatus, the plurality of power-control outlets connectable in power supply communication with ~~connectable to~~ one or more separate electronic appliances;

a plurality of power-control relays disposed in the power-distribution apparatus, each of the plurality of power-control relays in power control communication with at least one among the plurality of power-control outlets, ~~wherein~~ whereby the plurality of power-control ~~ports~~ outlets and the plurality of power-control relays provide operating power to the one or more separate electronic appliances are able to interrupt the operating power to the one or more separate electronic appliances;

a user configuration file accessible by the remote user system for affecting the plurality of power-control ~~ports~~ outlets;

a memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus and ~~providing for storage of the~~ having a user configuration file storage area; and

a user configuration file transfer mechanism in communication with the communication interface accessible by the remote user system, whereby the user configuration file transfer mechanism imports and exports ~~for importing and exporting~~ the user configuration file from the power-distribution apparatus to the remote user system via the ~~serial~~ communication interface.

2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a ~~computer data~~ network agent in ~~interfaced to support the file transfer mechanism and~~ communication with a remote power manager at the remote user system, whereby the network agent converts software commands communicated as TCP/IP packets into signals that can be understood by the remote power manager.

3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a command mechanism in communication with the user configuration file transfer mechanism, whereby the command mechanism recognizes ~~for recognizing~~ a user command to upload the user configuration file from the memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus to a destination.

4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a command mechanism in communication with the user configuration file transfer mechanism, whereby the command mechanism recognizes ~~for recognizing~~ a user command to download a substitute user configuration file to the memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus from a source.

5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

an integrity-checking application that checks ~~a transfer mechanism for checking~~ the integrity of a substitute user configuration file downloaded to the memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus [[,]] and facilitates rejection of ~~for rejecting~~ a corrupted file transfer.

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

an integrity-checking application that checks ~~a transfer mechanism for checking~~ the integrity of a substitute user configuration file downloaded to the memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus [[,]] and facilitates adoption of ~~for adopting for use~~ an acceptable file transfer.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

an editor application that allows for construction of ~~constructing~~ a substitute user configuration file ~~for downloading to the memory~~.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

an editor application that allows for modification of ~~modifying said~~ the user configuration file into a substitute user configuration file ~~for downloading to the memory and eventual use to control said plurality of power control ports~~.

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a ~~computer data~~ network agent in ~~interfaced to support the file transfer mechanism and~~ communication with a remote power manager at the remote user system, whereby the network agent converts software commands communicated as TCP/IP packets into signals that can be understood by the remote power manager;

a command mechanism in communication with the user configuration file transfer mechanism, whereby the command mechanism recognizes ~~for recognizing~~ a first user command to upload the user configuration file from the memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus to a destination[[,]] and recognizes ~~for recognizing~~ a second user command to download a substitute user configuration file to the memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus from a source;

a transfer mechanism, whereby the transfer mechanism checks ~~for checking~~ the integrity of ~~said~~ the substitute user configuration file downloaded to the memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus[[,]] and rejects ~~for rejecting~~ a corrupted file transfer, and whereby the transfer mechanism also checks ~~further for checking~~ the integrity of the substitute user configuration file downloaded to the memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus[[,]] and adopts ~~for adopting~~ for use an acceptable file transfer; and

an editor application, whereby the editor application allows for modification of ~~modifying~~ the user configuration file into a substitute user configuration file ~~for downloading to the memory and eventual use to control said plurality of power control ports~~.

10. (Currently amended) A method ~~for~~ of managing user configuration data in a reconfigurable network-equipment power-management and distribution system ~~of the type that may provide power to one or more electronic appliances~~, the method comprising the steps of:

providing power to one or more separate electronic appliances through a plurality of power-control outlets disposed in a local power-distribution apparatus;

~~providing a user configuration file system, wherein the user configuration file system provides a user configuration file;~~

~~operating~~ remotely controlling the [[a]] plurality of power-control ~~ports~~ outlets disposed in the local power-distribution apparatus with a remote control application, the plurality of power-control outlets, ~~wherein~~ whereby the plurality of power-control ~~ports~~ outlets may be affected by a ~~the~~ user configuration file;

uploading a copy of the user configuration file to the remote control application from the power-distribution apparatus over a data communication channel; and

downloading a substitute user configuration file from the remote control application to the power-distribution apparatus over the data communication channel, wherein the substitute user configuration file may replace the user configuration file.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:

checking the integrity of ~~said~~ the user configuration file and aborting the uploading step if corrupted.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:

checking the integrity of ~~said~~ the user configuration file and adopting it for use if not corrupted.

13. (Currently amended) A remote power manager system ~~of the type for (i) controllably distributing power from a power network to associated electronic devices while (ii) simultaneously being~~ in communication with a distal power manager application through a ~~separate~~ data communications network, the remote power manager system comprising in combination:

A. a remote power manager having power input connectable to ~~the~~ a power network that provides power to be distributed to associated electronic devices, a plurality of power-control power output ports connectable to the associated electronic devices, a power controller in power controlling communication with the plurality of power-control power output ports, a data communications network port system in communication with the power controller and being connectable to ~~said~~ the data communications network, and a power manager memory providing storage for a user configuration file; and

B. a user configuration file transfer application providing for selectably importing a user configuration file from ~~said~~ the distal power manager application through ~~said~~ the data communications port system to ~~said~~ the power manager memory, or exporting ~~said~~ the user configuration file from ~~said~~ the power manager memory through ~~said~~ the data communications network port system to ~~said~~ the distal power manager application over ~~said~~ the data communications network.